

that our doctor of the day comes to us from Lincoln. Under the north balcony, Dr. James Blomgren. Dr. Blomgren, would you please stand and be recognized. Also under the north balcony, guests of Senator Dierks from Ewing, Nebraska, Marge Green, and from Chambers, Nebraska, Pat Watson. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you. We're pleased to have you with us today. Also a very brief announcement, LB 1055 which follows 880 will not be discussed today, LB 1055 is removed from the agenda temporarily. Mr. Clerk, to LB 880.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 880 was a bill introduced by Senators Chizek, Hall, Ashford, Lindsay, Kristensen. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 3 of this year, referred to the Judiciary Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill at this time, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chizek, please.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Mr. Speaker, colleagues, LB 880, as you just heard, increases the numbers by two to the...from 48 to 50, allocated by the Judicial Resources Commission and it's very similar to the bill that we had last year. There is not much doubt that additional personnel would let the courts probably cope much better with things that have come to pass. For example, in Douglas County we've seen a case increase annually from approximately 6,000 in 1972 to 10,281 in '89. This is a 71 percent increase and that probably just tells just a part of the story. The nature and the complexity has changed. We're dealing with medical and legal malpractice, product liability, hazardous material, personal injuries are now very commonplace. On the criminal side there has been a tremendous increase in the drug offenses. Now it could probably, this situation could exist in any county, but I would expect that the commission would target the allocation to the area of greatest need. I think at least one would be in Douglas County, but that determination is up to the commission. Looking at the statewide situation, the district court sent to each of you materials outlining, in their opinion, the need for help so I won't get into that. I think this is the first step in trying to acquire some of the help that areas of the court need to maintain its level of case management. Some of you may have seen the story, I'm trying to find it, about two weeks ago in the weekend paper about the caseload and the problems, suggests very strongly, colleagues, that they are close to dismissing certain criminal cases because of time frame. So I would urge your adoption in